



# MADISON AREA ATARI USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER

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## A word or two from the chair



Paul Schmettler

Hold the presses! I got a bit behind on my monthly chores here. Usually, although I might be stretching things a bit, I have been a bit more timely with my monthly articles. However, this month I just didn't feel the creative urges until well past the deadline. So here is a rather half hearted chairmans' ratings for the month of August. I mailed off the request for a meeting place at West High School for the up coming year. I will have an answer

hopefully by the next meeting. Our local disk supplier has delivered another load for the ST and 8-bit disk of the month. So, bring in those \$\$ for the next months disk of suprizes! I typed my fingers off for all you 8-bit owners, on the MAAUG bbs and in this issue are a Fractal plotting and viewing program written in turbo basic. You can type it in yourself or download it from the club bbs. Thanks to the SLCC Journal and the San Leandro Atari users group for the copy. Well, as I said before, this column is a bit late...soo.....hope to see ya at the next meeting!!

### New Members!

Bill Faulkner  
John Beetem  
Charles Rabideaux  
Harland Amborn  
Carle Hoel  
Richard Maves  
Kamal Kavar  
Todd Butson  
Dan Grim  
Susan Gilbert  
WELCOME TO MAAUG!

## Editors Desktop

I hope you folks took notice of this skimpy issuell the newsletter really needs contributors, software reviews, letters of praise, criticism, articles of your pet project (whether hardware or software), what YOU think should be done in MAAUG, ANYTHING is welcome!! Yes, Even the editor is getting burned out by lack of contributors... pretty soon, there will be almost nothing to write about... then everyboy will think its not worth going to the meeting... then the club falls apart... think about it... is this apathy worth it??

## BE THERE



The August Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11th, at the Lake Edge United Church of Christ, 4200 Buckeye Road, at 7PM



# A Look At Printers...

By Craig Radi

There has been some discussion on the MAAUG board about printers. People want to know which one to get and what are some of the features. I hope this article will give you more insight to the question. Two of the most popular printers on the market today are DOT MATRIX, and DAISY WHEEL type printers.

This article will deal with these types.

Dot-matrix printers use pins or wires as tiny hammers to strike an inked ribbon against paper and form each letter out of a pattern (matrix) of dots. They have three main advantages that is they are fast, cost less than most daisy wheel printers, and can print graphics and custom characters. Most of the new dot-matrix printers can handle a wide choice of fonts with several types already built in to most of them. You may have the choice of Bold, Subscript, Superscript, italics, Condensed, Double strike, Expanded, variable pitch (the number of characters per inch), and a host of other features including near letter quality type of print.

Most printers have both Friction and Tractor feeds for your printing needs. Friction feed is the familiar typewriter method, the paper is held by rollers pressed tightly against the platen. Tractor feed allows you to use fan-fold type of paper for

continuous feeds and are adjustable to let you also print labels. Some printers have buffers to store text before you print your files. They vary in size of memory but allow you to dump your file to a buffer thus freeing up your RAM space in your computer for other things. DIP switches are found on most printers.

Some allow you to change transfer settings such as pitch, spacing, etc. And also to load in special fonts for a more unique print-out. The more DIP switches, the more flexibility you will have.

Daisy Wheel printers use a flat disk with over 100 spokes. Each spoke contains a character, which is hammered against a ribbon to create a one-piece image on paper. If you want to use different fonts, you must change the wheels before printing. Daisy wheel printers offer true letter quality print and is the choice for most business offices today. But with some of the new dot-matrix printers out today and their near letter quality print, it is getting to close to daisy wheel quality. Daisy wheel printing is generally slower than dot-matrix types.

they average about 20 to 80 characters per inch verses 100 to 200 cps. for dot-matrix types. Because of the limit to wheels, you can not do graphics on daisy wheel

printers, though I have seen some nice ASCII art work.

So you see there is a lot of choices when it comes to buying a printer. The question to really ask yourself is what do I want to do with my printer? If you are looking for a printer to do all of your program listings, text file printing, graphics or pictures, special fonts, etc. then a dot-matrix is the one for you. But if you need real letter quality print, then the daisy wheel is the only way to go. I currently own a Gemi 10X dot-matrix printer that I bought for \$148.00. It uses the old Underwood spool type of ribbons and those are real cheap to replace, around \$2.00 per reel. Outside of a little head cleaning, I have had no problem in the two years I have owned it, and it is a real work horse of a machine. I use a Graphix AT interface for my 800XL and it is a smart interface that has its own built in ROM for special printing features, so you don't have to use your printers DIP switches, just the ones on the interface. Or combine the both for the ultimate in flexibility.

If you have anymore questions on this subject, I would like to hear from you. Just drop a note to our editor, or leave a message to me on the MAAUG board. Happy Computing!



# Turbo Fractals

By Jerry Telfer, Reprinted from the July 1987 San Leandro Computer Users Group.  
Turbo Basic Required.

This is an Example of Turbo Basic (for the Atari 3 Bit machines) programming. Study the following listing and incorporate its techniques in your own Turbo Basic Efforts.

```

1 EXEC SETUP:EXEC LOAD_ML:GOS MENU
2 -----
3 # CALC_PIXELS
4 SU=0:XP=0:X=X5:GOTO 6
5 X=X+XT
6 XP=XP+1:IF XP>=A1 THEN SU=1:GOS PICD
ONE
7 YP=A4+1:Y=Y5
8 Y=Y+YT
9 YP=YP-1:IF YP<1 THEN 5
10 AZ=0:BZ=0:AC=X:BC=Y:C=0:S=0
11 -----
12 DO
13 IF C>CT OR S>SL THEN EXIT
14 AT=AZ*AZ-BZ*BZ:BT=AZ*BZ*2:AZ=AT+A
15 C=BZ+BT+BC
16 IF PEEK(764)<255 OR PEEK(632)<15
17 THEN EXEC CHECK_KEY
18 TS=AZ*AZ+BZ*BZ:S=TS:C=C+1
19 LOOP
20 -----
21 IF MODE=15 THEN EXEC COLOR_15:GOS C
22 ONTINUE
23 A=C MOD 2:IF A>0:CL=1:ELSE :CL=0:EN
24 DIF
25 # CONTINUE
26 COLOR CL:PLOT XP,YP
27 GOTO 6
28 -----
29 PROC COLOR_15
30 IF C<10:PP=C:ELSE :PP=C MOD 10:EN
31 DIF
32 IF PP=1 OR PP=4 OR PP=7 THEN CL=1
33 IF PP=2 OR PP=5 OR PP=8 THEN CL=2
34 IF PP=3 OR PP=6 OR PP=9 THEN CL=3
35 ENDPROC
36 -----
37 # ZOOM
38 X0=A2:Y0=A3:COLOR 1:KEY=255:POKE 76
39 4,255
40 PLOT X0,Y0:H=PEEK(632)
41 IF H<15 THEN EXEC MOVE_DOT
42 IF X0>A1 THEN X0=X0-1
43 IF X0<0 THEN X0=X0+1
44 IF Y0>A4 THEN Y0=Y0-1
45 IF Y0<0 THEN Y0=Y0+1
46 GOS ZOOM_NUMBER
47 -----
48 PROC MOVE_DOT
49 PAUSE 2
50 XX=X0:YY=Y0
51 COLOR 0:PLOT XX,YY:COLOR 1
52 IF H=6 OR H=10 OR H=14 THEN Y0=Y0
53 -1
54 IF H=5 OR H=13 OR H=9 THEN Y0=Y0+
55 1
56 IF H=6 OR H=7 OR H=5 THEN X0=X0+1
57 IF H=9 OR H=10 OR H=11 THEN X0=X0
58 -1
59 ENDPROC
60 -----
61 # ZOOM_NUMBER
62 IF KEY=255 THEN GOS ZOOM_DONE
63 IF KEY=31 THEN N=1
64 IF KEY=30 THEN N=1.27
65 IF KEY=26 THEN N=1.9
66 IF KEY=24 THEN N=2.8
67 IF KEY=29 THEN N=4
68 IF KEY=27 THEN N=6
69 IF KEY=51 THEN N=7.5
70 IF KEY=53 THEN N=10
71 IF KEY=40 THEN N=15
72 EXEC BELL
73 POKE 764,255
74 -----
75 # ZOOM_SQUARE
76 IF N=0 THEN GOS ZOOM_DONE
77 P1=X0-A2/N:P2=X0+A2/N:P3=Y0-A3/N:P4
78 =Y0+A3/N

```

```

79 IF P2>A1 AND P3<0 THEN PLOT P1,0:DR
80 AWTO P1,P4:DRAWTO A1,P4:GOS ZOOM_DONE
81 IF P1<0 AND P3<0 THEN PLOT P2,0:DR
82 AWTO P2,P4:DRAWTO 0,P4:GOS ZOOM_DONE
83 IF P1<0 AND P4>A4 THEN PLOT 0,P3:DR
84 AWTO P2,P3:DRAWTO P2,A4:GOS ZOOM_DONE
85 IF P2>A1 AND P4>A4 THEN PLOT A1,P3:
86 DRAWTO P1,P3:DRAWTO P1,A4:GOS ZOOM_DON
87 E
88 IF P1<0 THEN PLOT 0,P3:DRAWTO P2,P3
89 :DRAWTO P2,P4:DRAWTO 0,P4:GOS ZOOM_DON
90 E
91 IF P3<0 THEN PLOT P1,0:DRAWTO P1,P4
92 :DRAWTO P2,P4:DRAWTO P2,0:GOS ZOOM_DON
93 E
94 IF P4>A4 THEN PLOT P1,A4:DRAWTO P1,
95 P3:DRAWTO P2,P3:DRAWTO P2,A4:GOS ZOOM_
96 DONE
97 IF P2>A1 THEN PLOT A1,P3:DRAWTO P1,
98 P3:DRAWTO P1,P4:DRAWTO A1,P4:GOS ZOOM_
99 DONE
100 PLOT P1,P3:DRAWTO P2,P3:DRAWTO P2,P
101 4:DRAWTO P1,P4:DRAWTO P1,P3
102 -----
103 # ZOOM_DONE
104 KEY=PEEK(764)
105 IF KEY=26 THEN GOS MENU
106 IF PEEK(53279)=6 THEN EXEC BELL:GOS
107 NEW_NAME
108 IF KEY=10 THEN POKE 764,255:EXEC BE
109 LL:EXEC SET_PRINT:EXEC DUMP:EXEC LOAD_
110 ML:EXEC BELL
111 IF KEY=62 THEN POKE 764,255:EXEC BE
112 LL:EXEC SAVE_PIC:EXEC BELL
113 GOTO 35
114 -----
115 # NEW_NAME
116 TRAP #NEW_NAME:GRAPHICS 0:SETCOLOR
117 2,0,2
118 ? 1: "Do you want to change the fil
119 ename (1=Yes 0=No)":POKE 752,2:IMP
120 UT ASK
121 IF ASK>1 THEN GOS NEW_NAME
122 IF ASK=0 THEN GOS RESOLUTION
123 IF ASK=1
124 CL3: ? 1: "Current Filename is ->
125 ":AS: "<-
126 ? 1: ? 1: " Fractal Direct
127 ONV"
128 EXEC DIRECTORY
129 ? 1: "Filename (up to 8 character
130 s Max., '0' for another d
131 irectory)"
132 POKE 752,2:INPUT A1$
133 IF A1$="0" THEN 94
134 A$=A1$:EXEC FIX_NAME
135 ENDEF
136 -----
137 # RESOLUTION
138 TRAP #RESOLUTION:GRAPHICS 0:SETCOL
139 OR 2,0,2
140 ? 1: "Input a resolution number fr
141 om 10-1000"
142 ? "The previous Fractal was plote
143 d with resolution ->":CT: "<-
144 ? 1: "What number would you like":
145 POKE 752,2:INPUT CC
146 IF CC<2 OR CC>1000 THEN GOS RESOLU
147 TION
148 CT=CC
149 -----
150 # ZOOM_CALC
151 X5=X5+((P1+P2)/2)*XT
152 RRANGE=(P2-P1)*XT
153 X5=X5-(RRANGE/2)
154 XE=X5+RRANGE
155 XT=(XE-X5)/A1
156 Y5=Y5+((P3+P4)/2)*YT
157 Y5=Y5-(RRANGE*0.77)/2
158 YE=Y5+RRANGE*0.77
159 YT=(YE-Y5)/A4
160 GRAPHICS MODE+16:EXEC SET_COLORS:G
161 OS CALC_PIXELS
162 -----
163 # MENU
164 GRAPHICS 0:SETCOLOR 2,0,2:
165 ? " WELCOME TO FRACTALAND"
166 ? 1: ? 1: " Would you like to:": ? 1:
167 " (1) View Frac8 "
168 ? 1: ? 1: " (2) View Frac15 ":PRINT :
169 PRINT " (3) View your own saved PIC"

```







279 ? "K":? :? " Along with this progr  
am, you need the following fi  
les on disk--"  
280 ? :? "FRAC8.PIC":? "FRAC8.DAT":? "  
FRAC15.PIC":? "FRAC15.DAT"  
281 ? :? " The menu presented to you  
at the start gives you 4 choices. "

282 ? "The first two let you view the  
pictures on disk, FRAC8 and FRAC15. Th  
ey were plotted in graphic modes ";  
283 ? "8 and 15. The third choice  
will give you a disk directory of pict  
ures that the ";  
284 ? "program saves for you. ";  
285 ? "The fourth gives you these  
instructions."  
286 POKE 752,2:GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?

287 ? "Once you pick a picture to load  
, it will then be displayed. ANYTIME  
a ";  
288 ? " picture is on screen, you c  
an ";  
289 ? "change the colors by moving yo  
ur joystick. The color on screen wil  
l cycle from dark";  
290 ? "to light and ";  
291 ? "then jump to the next color.  
The cycle runs through 15 colors, wit  
h 7 brightnesses each."  
292 ? "Each stick position changes the  
color of different parts of the pictu  
re, so experiment to get the ";  
293 ? "feel of it."  
294 POKE 752,2:GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?

295 ? "To magnify a part of the pictur  
e for more detail, press the 'Z' for  
zoom key while the pic is ";  
296 ? "displayed. A dot will appear at  
the center of the picture that y  
ou move about with your joystick. ";  
297 ? "Place the dot at the center of  
the next pic you would like plotted. (i  
t may be hard to see in mode 8)."  
298 GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?  
299 ? "Next, push a key from 1-9, with  
1 being the same size. ";  
300 ? "A different size square will be  
drawn depending on which number y  
ou select."  
301 ? "If you're not satisfied with th  
e size of the square or the placement  
of it, just move the dot again";  
302 ? "With the joystick, and/or, se  
lect another number. Selecting '1' wi  
ll allow you to shift the ";  
303 ? "picture for better positionin  
g, without zooming."  
304 ? "Once you're satisfied with the po  
sition and size of the square, push **5**  
**5** to begin the next picture."  
305 GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?  
306 ? "You'll be asked for a new file n  
ame, if you wish to change it."  
307 ? "A resolution number from 10-100  
is also asked for. Low numbers are  
good for quick scans of interesting"  
308 ? "areas, while high numbers resul  
t in longer, more detailed plots. I  
suggest around 250 for a good ";  
309 ? "compromise between speed a  
nd resolution."  
310 GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?  
311 ? " To save a picture in progress  
, just push '5', and the program will  
save it to drive H1 with the ";  
312 ? "filename you gave it earlier. Th  
ere must be 66 sectors free space on  
the disk before saving."  
313 ? "You can then recall it later b  
y using choice H3 at the beginning men  
u. It will";  
314 ? " automatically continue plottin  
g where it left off. This is convenia  
nt if you don't want to tie up your";  
315 ? " computer for the long tim  
e required to complete a full picture.  
Remember, you can magnify";  
316 ? " a part of the ";  
317 ? "picture even if it's not finishe  
d. Just push 'Z' to start the magnifica  
tion process described before."  
318 GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?

319 ? " After you push '5'ave, **START**,  
'Z'oom or 'P'rint, a tone will sound.  
You may have to wait a second ";  
320 ? "until the ";  
321 ? " program finishes the curr  
ent calculation before it tak  
es action. You need only push the "  
322 ? "appropriate key once."  
323 ? "By the way, pushing 'P' will se  
nd the displayed picture to an Epson/G  
emini printer."  
324 GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?  
325 ? " You can return to the main men  
u by hitting the ESC key at any time  
." "  
326 ? " Also, when asked for names for  
your pictures, don't add any ex  
tenders, the program takes ";  
327 ? "care of that."  
328 ? "The pictures are saved in a sta  
ndard 62-sector format that you can u  
se with other popular paint software."  
329 ? "The space bar toggles the scree  
n on/off. Plotting speed is incre  
ased 30% by having the screen off."  
330 ? :? :? " Enjoy the program  
!!!"  
331 GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?  
332 ? " Programmed by!"  
333 ? :? " Brian M. Hershey":?  
" 103 Granger Rd., #3"  
334 ? " Leola, PA 17540":? "  
(717)656-0134"  
335 ? :? " Compuserve -> 72337,2013  
DELPHI -> 258MH"  
336 ? :? :? "Feel free to modify, dist  
ribute, write, call or leave E-Mail. I  
f you have an interest in Fractals,"  
337 ? " I'd like to hear from you!"  
338 GOSUB 347:?"K":? :? :?  
339 ? " -REMEMBER-":?  
340 ? " '5' -> Saves picture to d  
isk"  
341 ? :? " 'Z' -> Places dot on s  
creen  
to start zoomin  
g"  
342 ? :? " **START** -> Starts next pic  
ture  
after zooming"  
343 ? :? " 'P' -> Begins screen-d  
ump to  
Epson/Gemini pr  
inter"  
344 ? :? " **ESC** -> Returns to main  
menu"  
345 ? :? "Space bar -> Turns screen of  
f/on for  
30% speed incre  
ase"  
346 GOSUB 347:GOSUB MENU  
347 POSITION 2,22:?"PRESS ANY KEY TO  
CONTINUE...."  
348 IF PEEK(753)=0 THEN 348  
349 PAUSE 25:POKE 764,255:RETURN  
350 -----